

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04548 191447Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4001

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4548

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, SY
SUBJECT: CHECKLIST OF BILATERAL ISSUES

REF: STATE 167039

1. SUGGEST YOU CONSIDER FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR BRIEFING
PAPERS:

A. SUBJECTS US MAY BE CONSIDERING RAISING:

(1) REMAINS OF ELIE COHEN (SEE DAMASCUS 4459).

(2) SYRIAN JEWRY: ASSUME PRESIDENTIAL LETTER WILL
HAVE ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED. AS FOLLOW-UP IT WOULD BE
APPROPRIATE FOR THE SECRETARY TO EXPRESS PRESIDENT CARTER'S
APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT ASSAD'S GESTURE IN PERMITTING A
SMALL NUMBER OF SYRIAN JEWISH WOMEN TO LEAVE SYRIA TO MARRY
HUSBANDS IN THE U.S. THIS HUMANITARIAN ACTION HAS PLEASED
THE PRESIDENT AND STRENGTHENED U.S.-SYRIAN RELATIONS. WE
HOPE THAT PRESIDENT ASSAD WILL CONTINUE TO ALLOW SUCH
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MARRIAGES AND OTHER LINKAGES BETWEEN THE SYRIAN JEWISH
COMMUNITY AND THEIR RELATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE
PLACE AS AN ASPECT OF THE GROWING COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR
TWO COUNTRYIES.

(3) CLAIMS: BY THE TIME SECRETARY ARRIVES WE EXPECT TO
HAVE PRESENTED LIST OF OUTSTANDING US PUBLIC

AND PRIVATE CLAIMS AGAINST SARG TO MINECON IMADI. WE HOPE FOR RAPID AND FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF THESE OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS. A FIRST ROUND OF PUBLIC CLAIMS WAS SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED IN 1976. WE DO NOT BELIEVE SECRETARY NEED RAISE THIS ISSUE.

B. SUBJECTS SYRIANS MAY RAISE:

(1) CAB APPROVAL FOR SYRIAN FLIGHTS TO NEW YORK:
WE DOUBT KHADDAM WILL RAISE THIS SUBJECT. SECRETARY SHOULD HAVE LATEST INFORMATION ON EFFECT AND DURATION OF CAB PERMIT IF SYRIANAIR DOES NOT BEGIN FLIGHTS UNTIL NEXT SPRING.

(2) BOYCOTT: IF SUBJECT IS RAISED SECRETARY SHOULD BE READY TO EXPLAIN NON-CONFRONTATIONAL NATURE OF US LEGISLATION.

(3) SYRIAN INTEREST IN PURCHASING C-130'S: SYRIA HAD NOT TO DATE RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH US ON A POLITICAL LEVEL. AIR FORCE COMMANDER DID REFER TO IT IN INITIAL CALL BY NEW DATT. IN THE PAST SYRIA HAS BEEN UNWILLING TO RISK EITHER A TURN DOWN OR AN EMBARRASSING (EGYPTIAN) SCENARIO. NEVERTHELESS, SYRIAN MILITARY REMAINS IN CONTACT WITH LOCKHEED WITH EVENTUAL AIM OF PURCHASING C-130'S.

(4) INTERCESSION WITH POTENTIAL OIL STATE DONORS: OVER PAST
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YEAR OR MORE SYRIA HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING ECONOMIC CRISIS WHICH HAS SLOWED ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND REQUIRED EVEN OPERATING BUDGET CUTBACKS. IN SUMMER 1976, I TOLD KHADDAM LAST SUMMER ON INSTRUCTIONS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH SAUDIS AT UN BILATERALS. KHADDAM MIGHT ALLUDE TO THIS MATTER INDIRECTLY IN GENERAL DISCUSSION OF SYRIA'S HOPES FOR MORE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. SECRETARY MIGHT SAY WE ARE PLEASED WITH EVOLUTION OF OUR OWN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN SYRIA AND PARTICULARLY WITH FACT THAT WE ARE NOW COOPERATING WITH SYRIANS ON SOME BASIC STUDIES (TRANSPORTATION SECTOR, SOIL SURVEY) FROM WHICH WILL COME A NUMBER OF NEW PROJECTS FOR PRESENTATION TO VARIOUS POSSIBLE SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

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